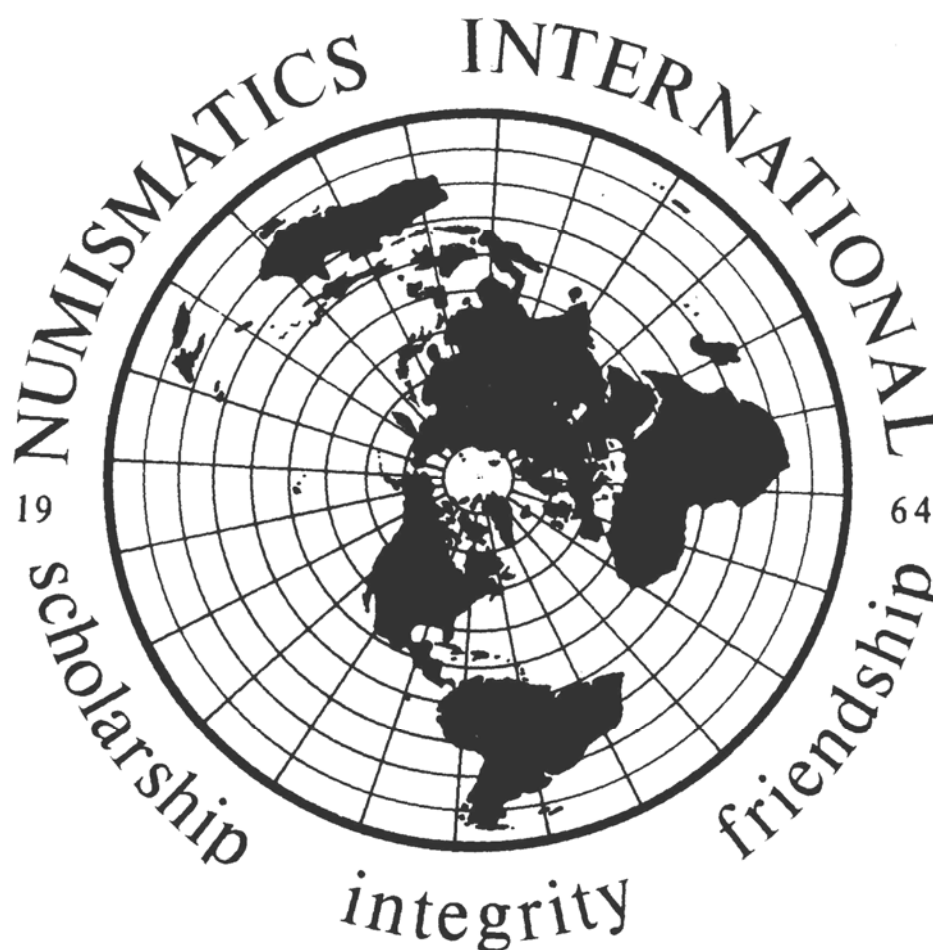


# NI Bulletin

A Publication of Numismatics International Inc.

Volume 43 No. 2



February 2008

\$2.00

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman & Past-President:	Howard L. Ford	e-mail: fordintl@earthlink.net Phone: 940-243-5523
President:	Michael Jones	
Vice President:	James Terry	
Recording Secretary:	Christopher Carson	
Corresponding Secretary:	Gordon Robinson	e-mail: grobinson1@netzero.net
Treasurer:	Don Douglas	
At-Large Directors:	Pat Holladay, Stewart Huckaby	

**All past Presidents are members of the Board of Governors.**

## APPOINTED STAFF

### **Curator, NI REFERENCE COLLECTION**

Philip L. Lawrence

### **Editor Emeritus, NI BULLETIN**

Marvin L. Fraley

### **Editor, NI BULLETIN**

Herman Blanton

P.O. Box 247

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

e-mail: hblanton@yahoo.com

### **Chairman, NI PUBLICATIONS**

John E. Vandigriff

P.O. Box 1481

Lewisville, TX 75067

e-mail: johnvan@grandecom.net

### **Index Editor, NI BULLETIN**

Christopher D. Carson

### **Archivist**

Ross Schraeder

### **Membership Chairman**

Ross Schraeder

e-mail: rossschraeder1@yahoo.com

### **Librarian, NI LIBRARY**

David Gracey

PO Box 570842

Dallas, TX 75357-0842

davidfg248@grandecom.net

### **Auction Manager, NI MAIL BID SALES**

Carl Young

P.O. Box 810521

Dallas, TX 75381-0521

### **Moderator, NI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Howard A. Daniel III

P.O. Box 989 Deltaville, VA 23043-0989

e-mail: HADaniel3@msn.com

**Book Orders:** Elmore Scott: NIBooks@tx.rr.com

### **NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL**

e-mail: johnvan@grandecom.net

Website: <http://www.numis.org>

Discussion Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics/>

Correspondence should be directed to those persons and addresses above for departments indicated. All other correspondence should be mailed direct to NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL, P.O. BOX 570842, DALLAS, TX 75357-0842.

## OBJECTIVES OF NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Individual & Club Memberships, \$20.00 annually; Junior Membership (18 years of age and under), \$15.00 annually; Senior Membership (70 years of age and older), \$15.00 annually.

# Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 43

February 2008

Number 2

<b>NI Educational Programs</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Membership Report</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Coin Quiz</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Letters to the Editor</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<b>Book News and Reviews</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Howard L. Ford</b>	
<i>FYI: William the Conqueror and the Futhark</i> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Hideki Otsuka</b>	
<i>One-Yen Gold and Silver Coins: The Birth of the Yen</i> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Bill Mullan</b>	
<i>The Iron Pfennigs of 1920</i> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Bob Forrest</b>	
<i>Cradle Medals</i> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Herman Blanton</b>	
<i>Census of the Santa Fe Half-Real, FS</i> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>CNG</b>	
<i>Harald Bluetooth</i> .....	<b>38</b>



## NI Educational Programs

**National Money Show™, Phoenix Arizona, March 7-9, 2008**

**Phoenix Convention Center, West Building, 100 North 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ**

Numismatics International Education Program Moderator, Howard A. Daniel III, will be manning a club table for NI (and IBNS, NBS & PCF), where he will be giving some world coins to young and new numismatists in the name of NI. If you are attending the show and have extra coins, notes or references, please drop them at the club table and Howard will type up a donation letter for you.

Please contact Howard at [HADaniel3@msn.com](mailto:HADaniel3@msn.com) if you have any questions about the meeting or the show.



## Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by April 1, 2008 the memberships are effective that day.

2705 Joseph Ott, PO Box 50113, Provo, UT 84605-0113 (Argentina & Potosi cobs)

2706 Geoffrey Krauss, 979 Easton Pl., Dallas, TX 75218 (USA)

**ISSN: 0197-3088 Copyright 2007**

**Numismatics International, P.O. Box 570842, Dallas, TX USA 75357-0842**

**FYI**  
**William the Conqueror and the Futhark**  
**Howard L. Ford, NI #LM90**

William the Conqueror used some seventy different English mints to make his silver pennies, and his son and successor, William II (or William Rufus), still had over fifty different mints operating early in his reign. Together the two kings ruled England for thirty-four years and produced more than a dozen different types of pennies.

Wikipedia



(not actual size)

On not one of these several coin types from all these many different mints over all these many different years is the name "WILLIAM" spelled by the English with a "W." In all of the legends on the coins except one, the kings' names are spelled with an initial "P" (Richard Lobel and others, *Coincraft's 2000 Standard Catalogue of English and UK Coins 1066 to Date*: London, 1999, pp. 315-317). For both kings, common versions of the spellings include "PILLEM," "PILLELM," "PILLEMUS" and others, while for William II "PILLEIM" also appears (Robert Friedberg, *Coins of the British World*. New York: Coin and Currency Institute, pp. 22-24). In the single exception where a letter other than "P" is used, an initial "I" appears (*Ibid.*, p. 22), undoubtedly an absolute error.

In the above paragraph, we are talking about the shapes of the letters and not the sounds that are associated with them. Once we start talking about sounds, things become very different. Interestingly, in spite of having the opening letter shaped like a "P," the names would still have been pronounced with an opening "W" sound by Englishmen, because in some very old European alphabets, the sound of "W" was represented by a letter which looked very much like the "P," and the moneyers of England are still using the letter in this way. To explain this, we will need to go back centuries and examine the runes of old Teutonic cultures in Germany and Scandinavia. "Rune" means "secret" or "hidden," so to examine these alphabets we are moving back into the shadows of primitive religious mystery.

These were the Futhark alphabets, so called because the first six letters, F-U-T-H-A-R-K, spell out this word (just as the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, "alpha" and "beta," give us our word "alphabet"). Below we show a variation used in England, called Futhorc.





Each runic symbol represents a letter, a sound, and a word. Several different Futharks existed at different times and places, some with very different characters, but it does not matter whether we are talking about the Elder Futhark, which was used from about 150 to 800 in the lands of the Teutons, or the later Anglo-Saxon Futhorc, used in England from around 400 to 800, because in both the eighth character, the word for "joy," is pronounced "wyn"(or sometimes "wunjo") and represents the "W" sound, even though it is shaped much like our "P." The difference is that on the modern "P" we have a curved line or semicircle attached to the vertical staff, while in the rune a triangle is attached, thus giving the character the look of a pennant (<http://www.tarahill.com/runes/runehist.html>). William the Conqueror was, of course, Norman-French. "Norman" is a contraction for "Northman," a Viking, so William's ancestors would have come from the general area where the Elder Futhark would have been known. He conquered England, where the Anglo-Saxon Futhorc was known.



But what William personally knew or did not know was not as important as what the Anglo-Saxon workers in the mints would have known, and they would have been familiar with the influence of the rune because it was a part of their English tradition. For instance, on the coins of King Edward the Confessor, who ruled England from 1042-1066, shortly before William I, the engravers carved his name nine different ways, and in eight of these the effect of the runic "wyn" is present, as in "EDPARD," "EDPED" and "EDPERD"; the ninth spelling uses an "R" instead, "EDRARD"(Friedberg, p. 21), probably an outright error. Therefore, on the coins of William I and those of his heir, the spelling of their name by English moneyers may be very surprising to us at first, but even so the pronunciation of the opening letter of the name by the English was just what we would have expected.

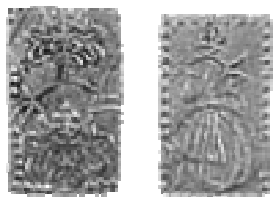
Something else had been going on for a long time where the "W" sound was concerned. Much earlier, with coins of Aethelwulf (838-858), the needed "W" sound was written as "VV," and this occurred on many other occasions, as on the coins of Edward the Elder (900-925) and Eadwig, who reigned from 955 to 959 (Friedberg, pp. 15-17). Since "V" is frequently used for "U," the engravers are actually creating a double "U," and that is what a "W" is, simply a "Double-U." Although the English had used the "VV" in the ninth century for Aethelwulf, the letter "W" was not actually created until the eleventh century; and then it was created by Norman scribes to represent the sound used by the conquered English which the Normans did not have in their alphabet. They did not want to borrow the Saxon "wyn," which could too easily be confused with "P" so they created the "Double-U," in the form of "W."

How did the Normans write the name of their leader? At Falaise, which was the king's birthplace, there is a record carved in stone, the Falaise Tablet, which lists over 300 Normans who accompanied William to England. The list is alphabetized by first names, and a large number of these soldier-adventurers share the name of William. The persistent spelling, as in French, is "Guillaume" (<http://members.tripod.com/~midgley/french/htm>).

*NI*

## One-Yen Gold and Silver Coins: The Birth of the Yen

Hideki Otsuka, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan



*Man'en Nibu-kin* 1860  
18mm × 11mm, Mass: 3.0g  
Fineness: 0.22, Pure gold content: 0.7g



One-Yen Gold Coin 1872  
Diameter: 14mm, Mass: 1.7g  
Fineness: 0.90, Pure gold content: 1.5g



20-Yen Gold Coin, 1871  
Diameter: 35mm, Mass: 33.3g  
Fineness: 0.90, Pure gold content: 30.0g



One-Yen Silver Coin for Foreign Trade, 1871  
Diameter: 38mm, Mass: 27.0g  
Fineness: 0.90, Pure silver content: 24.3g

The newly instituted Meiji government enacted the New Currency Act of 1871, under which the gold standard and the currency unit of the yen were adopted. The small-denomination gold coin of the Edo period (1603-1867), the Man'en Nibu-kin gold coin, played a vital role in the transition from the old currency unit of *ryo* to the yen.

Meanwhile, the one-yen silver coin, originally minted as the standard currency, was used mainly for the settling of foreign trade.

A variety of coins were circulating in Japan shortly after the Meiji Restoration in 1868. In addition to the *Dajokan-satsu*, gold notes issued by the Cabinet, and paper money issued by the local governments, gold, silver, and copper coins minted by the Tokugawa Shogunate were also utilized as a means of exchange. To unify the complicated currency system under the single currency of the yen and lay the foundation for a modern nation, the Meiji government decided to introduce the silver standard in October 1870, and in November it began minting a one-yen silver coin of approximately the same weight and fineness as the internationally circulated Mexican silver dollar. The silver standard system was selected because many Asian countries (Japan's major trading partners) applied the silver standard, and thus silver coins were widely used as a means of payment. The relationship between old and new coins under the silver standard system was as follows: 100 pieces of one-yen silver coins = 100 dollars in Western silver coins = 311 pieces of *ichibu-gin*, the Japanese silver coins (311 *bu* = 77 ryo 3 bu). Hence, one yen equaled approximately 3 bu of old gold coins, an exchange rate of roughly 4:3.

Despite this, it was the gold standard that was finally adopted under the New Currency Act of 1871. It is thought that the gold standard was adopted instead of silver in response to Itō Hirobumi, an influential politician who was visiting the United States. He suggested that Japan adopt the gold standard in line with the United States and major European countries. It must be mentioned that due consideration was given to the smooth conversion from the ryo to the yen.

Among various currencies in circulation at the time, the Man 'en Nibu-kin gold coin—which had been issued to prevent the outflow of gold at the end of the Edo Period—essentially functioned as a standard currency. However, the *ichibu-gin* silver coins, which were of higher quality than the Man 'en Nibu-kin, were preferred by foreign countries. When the silver standard was adopted for international purposes, new and old coins had to be converted at the above-mentioned rate of 4:3. To eliminate the complications accompanying such conversions, the Meiji government set 311 pieces of *ichibu-gin* (77 ryo 3 bu) as equal to 200 pieces of *nibu-kin* (100 ryo) in terms of their bullion value (the gold/silver parity was 1:15), and made the value of 100 pieces of one-yen gold coin and 100 dollars in Western silver coins equivalent to the above coins. As a result, the transition to the new currency system was simplified by merely changing the currency unit (from one ryo to one yen), and Japan was able to achieve a gold/silver parity in line with the international level.

At the same time, the already-minted one-yen silver coins were approved for unlimited circulation in ports as a means of settlement of foreign trade, as well as for general transactions with the consent of both parties concerned. In 1878, the one-yen silver coin was also approved for unlimited circulation as a standard currency. At that time, the currency system in Japan shifted to a dual gold/silver standard.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

*NI*

# **The Iron Pfennigs of 1920**

## **Bill Mullan, NI #1040**

### **Background**

During and after the First World War some towns in Germany issued *Notgeld* (emergency money) to alleviate the shortage of small change that was then hindering the smooth flow of trade.

In the beginning, when Notgeld served a genuine purpose in commerce, many of the coins and paper were quite plain. Utilitarian is the term that comes to mind. However, as the number of issues proliferated communities began to make their issues more attractive by including some motif that identified with the area. Often it was a coat of arms, a picturesque view, or a product for which they were noted, such as the boots of Pirmasens. Later, when inflation had deprived smaller denomination coins of their purchasing power, Notgeld became a "collectable" and as such was worth more than it had been worth as a means of exchange. In order to compete with other Notgeld in the market place, especially the paper, but also to some extent coins, it not only had to be different but had to be attractive as well.

### **Inflation**

In Germany a total of seventeen towns issued one-pfennig Notgeld coins in 1920. Is it possible that these coins were needed to facilitate trade? In order to understand the situation let us examine what inflation was doing to the value of the German mark. By the end of 1918 the mark was valued at seven to the dollar; see Table 1 at end of article. At that point the pfennig was still useful in commerce.

The table also shows that in 1919, at the time when a coin dated 1920 might have been in the planning stage, the mark was trading at 42 to the dollar (not quite, but nearly valueless). One wonders if the cost of production could have been less than one pfennig. By the end of 1920 the mark was trading at 70 to the dollar. So it is just barely possible, but highly unlikely, that these coins of interest were actually intended to serve a purpose in trade rather than just being collector's items. One fact to the contrary is that among the coins of interest all the one-pfennig coins have plain edges while the two-pfennig coins all have serrated edges. The one and two-pfennig coins were so close in diameter that they could not otherwise be easily distinguished. The expense of edge treatment is hardly justified if the coins were only collectibles.

### **Coin Availability**

Was there a shortage of small coins in 1919 that these Notgeld coins were intended to alleviate? Table 2 shows the production of German small change for the period of interest. Data is also displayed in Chart One. The Chart includes estimated numbers of Notgeld coins.

The Chart shows that there were indeed serious declines in coin mintage in the years 1913 and 1915. They were followed by years of greatly increased production of the five and ten-pfennig coins, but by then the damage to commerce had been done.

Small towns and markets began to issue their own small change in the form of Notgeld, and they continued to do so even after the national five and ten-pfennig coins were again being minted in enormous numbers.

### **National Coinage**

It is apparent that at the beginning of the war Germany was not producing the quantities of the two smallest denominations that they had in the years immediately before the war. By 1916 the government seems to have decided that the one-pfennig was no longer needed in commerce and began to phase it out. This proved to not be the case, however, and in 1917 a relatively robust 50 million one-pfennig coins (KM #24) were minted in aluminum. Except for a negligible number of the same from the Munich mint in 1918 the one-pfennig coin was not minted again by the national government until the Weimar Republic brought it back in 1923.

This is in sharp contrast to production of five and ten-pfennig coins which were generally minted during the war and immediately thereafter in much larger numbers than before the war. The exception occurred in 1915 when only 18.5 million ten-pfennig coins were struck by the national government. It was in 1915 that minting of Notgeld began in earnest. Many of the earliest coins were undated, but it is generally held that the majority were made in 1915 and 1916. The two-pfennig coin was never a big factor in commerce and the mints stopped producing them altogether in 1916.

How does the Notgeld story mesh with that of national coinage? Table 3 shows the number of different designs of one, two, five, and ten-pfennig denomination Notgeld coins made during years 1914-21. It is interesting that the total production of all the coins listed in Table 3 (figured at a generous 50,000 mintage per issue.) would amount to only about 73 million coins. Most of these coins were issued in 1917 and 1918 at a time when national production of all denominations was 304.1 and 536.2 million respectively.

One can figure that by the end of 1918 most of the Notgeld issuing municipalities stopped issuing coins because the number and mix of national coins available at that time were sufficient to meet most needs. It is perhaps safe to say that the Notgeld coins minted after 1919 were not needed for commerce; the hobby aspect had by then taken over.

### **The Iron Pfennigs**

Of the seventeen one-pfennig coins issued in 1920 two were made of zinc and fifteen were made of iron. The strange thing is that of fifteen one-pfennig iron Notgeld pieces minted in 1920 no fewer than ten are identical except for the name of the issuing authority. Therein lies a story. I don't know the story but I hope someone out there knows and will share his or her knowledge with us.

The motif on these coins is a deer antler. One of the ten towns, Nagold, in addition to one and two-pfennig coins issued a ten and fifty of the same design. That makes me think that Nagold might have been the originator of the design. Nagold on my modern map of Germany is printed in such small print I think it must have been be a

very small town so I can't explain why it appears to have had such influence over the other towns.

On the obverse of the coin the denomination is indicated by a large numeral 1, or 2, with "pfennig" underneath. In an arc across the top, is the word *Stadtgemeinde* (Municipality), *Oberamtsbezirk* (Upper District) or *Universitätsstadt* (University City) as the case may be and at the bottom the name of the issuing town. This is hardly the design to successfully compete with the vistas on the Notgeld of Rothenburg.

On the reverse of these coins is placed a five-tined antler horizontally across the middle of the coin. Above it is the word "Notgeld" and below is the date 1920. They are all made of iron. The one-pfennigs have a plain edge and the two-pfennigs of similar design have milled edges.

The places that used the design in 1920 are listed below with their identifying numbers as listed in *Catalog of German War Tokens* by Robert Lamb. Also listed is whether one or both one and two-pfennig coins dated 1920 were issued along with a summary of all other Notgeld coins they issued in other years:

**Aalen:** Lamb 2. One and two-pfennig. All other Notgeld from Aalen were minted in 1917 and 1918 and bore an imperial eagle.

**Calw:** Lamb 70. One and two-pfennig. Six other Notgeld coins were issued in 1917 and 1918 with what appears to be a coat of arms.

**Cannstatt:** Lamb 74. One-pfennig. No other Notgeld coins. (This city also named Kannstatt, Canstadt, Cannstadt, today Cannstatt—*Ed.*).

**Freudenstadt:** Lamb 133. One and Two-pfennig. Ten other coins issued in 1917, 1918, and 1919 without a pictorial motif.

**(Bad)-Mergentheim:** Lamb 318. One and two-pfennig. Seven coins dated 1917 and three larger denominations dated 1920, all with coat of arms.

**Nagold:** Lamb 342. One and two-pfennig. Two others in 1920, a ten-pfennig in zinc and a fifty-pfennig in iron with the same design. Previously a five, ten, twenty, and fifty in zinc dated 1918 with no pictorial motif.

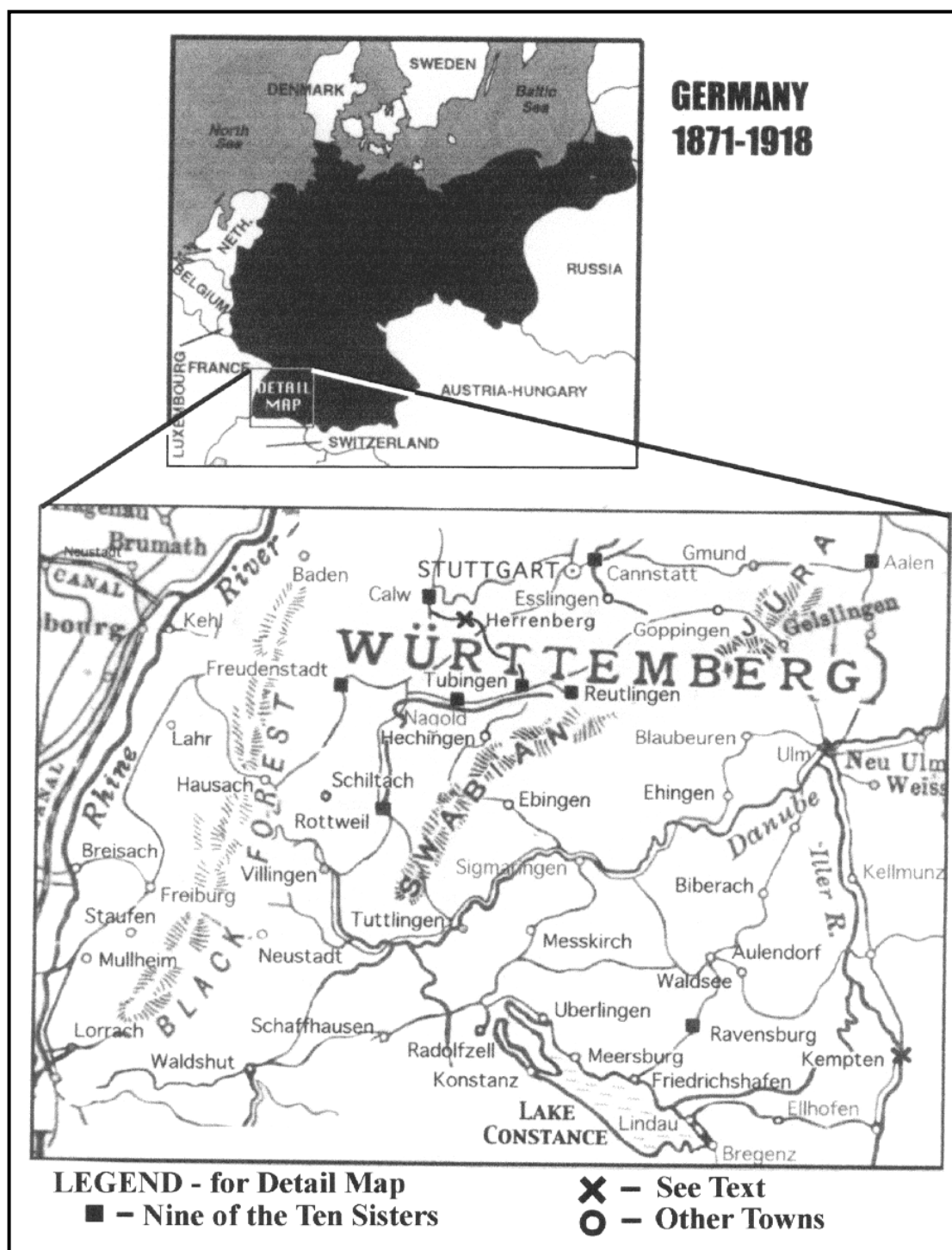
**Ravensburg:** Lamb 427. One and two-pfennig. Three others dated 1918 bear a coat of arms.

**Reutlingen:** Lamb 432. One and Two-pfennig. Two 1918 fifty-pfennig coins. Motif is a lamp hanging from the deer's rack. See Figure 2.

**Rottweil:** Lamb 442. One-pfennig only. No other Notgeld coins.

**Tübingen:** Lamb 534. One and two-pfennig. An earlier series of eleven Notgeld, all in 1917, show crossed human arms clutching similar antlers, see Figure 2.

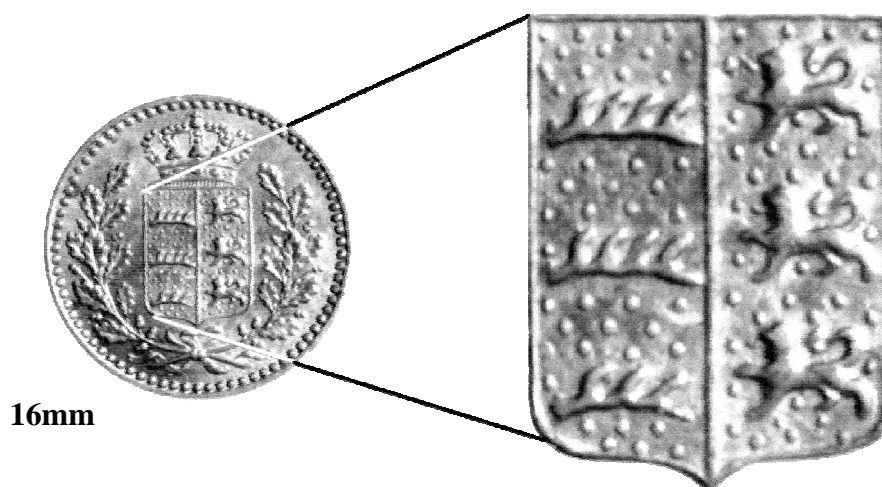
If you look at the accompanying map you will see that most of the towns in the list above are close together. Indeed a circle with a radius of 20 miles in the vicinity of Tübingen would include eight of the ten towns. They are all in Württemberg, a fact that may escape your attention because the boundary lines of Württemberg are not shown on this map.



I could not locate Mergentheim as it is listed in LAMB. It turns out that the name was changed from Bad-Mergentheim in 1926<sup>1</sup>. It is located along the Northern border of Württemberg some fifty miles N-NE of Stuttgart. It is not shown on this map.

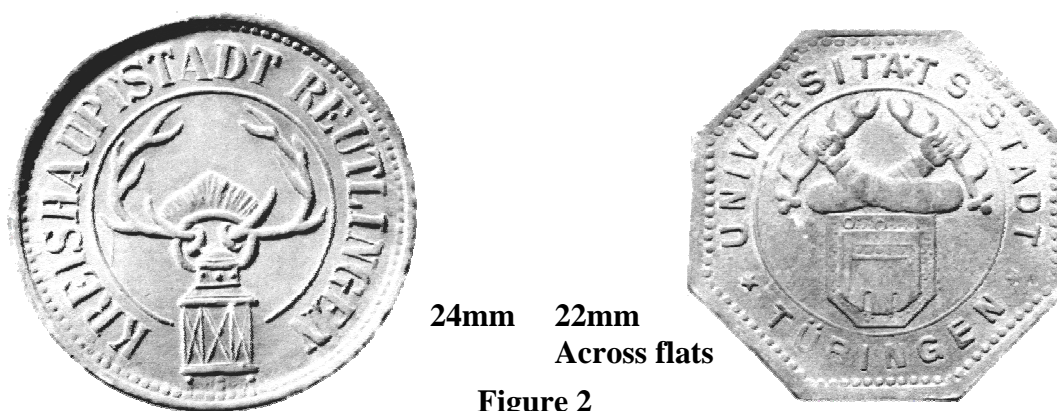
<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad\\_Mergentheim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Mergentheim)

That all of the towns issuing these coins are located in Württemberg is not surprising because the antler that is featured on the coins forms a part of the coat of arms of the German state of Württemberg prior to unification in 1871, see Figure 1.



**Figure 1**  
**Württemberg 1/4 Kreuzer 1857 KM #600**

For more variations on the antler theme see Figure 2 which shows two additional forms for the display of the Württemberg antlers. Both of these towns are among those that minted the iron pfennigs about which I am writing.



**Figure 2**  
**Variations on Württemberg Antler Theme**  
**Reutlingen 50 pfennig 1917 (left), Tübingen 50 pfennig 1918 (right)**

Figure 3 is a photograph showing seven of the ten coins that I have in my collection. I call them the ten sisters. As noted, all of the issues share the same reverse. The obverses vary only in the name of the issuing authority.

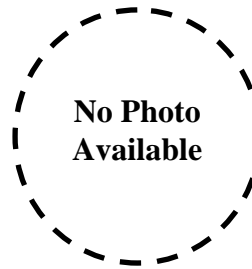
Two towns issued both one and two-pfennig Notgeld in 1920. Kempten, a town in Bavaria, is just across the border from Württemberg, and Herrenberg in Württemberg is located right in the center of all this conformity. They are made of iron, are of the same size and have the same edge treatment but do not have the antler motif. They are so similar to the family of ten sisters about which I am writing that they must rate at least first cousins (Figure 4).





15mm

Common Reverse



Aalen  
Lamb 2.9



Calw  
Lamb 70.7



Cannstatt  
Lamb 74.1



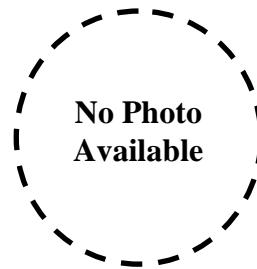
Freudenstadt  
Lamb 133.11



Bad-Mergentheim  
Lamb 318.11



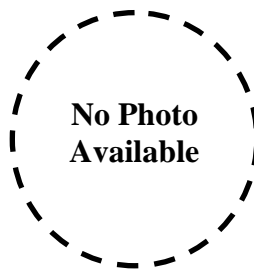
Nagold  
Lamb 342.6



Ravensburg  
Lamb 427.4



Reutlingen  
Lamb 432.3

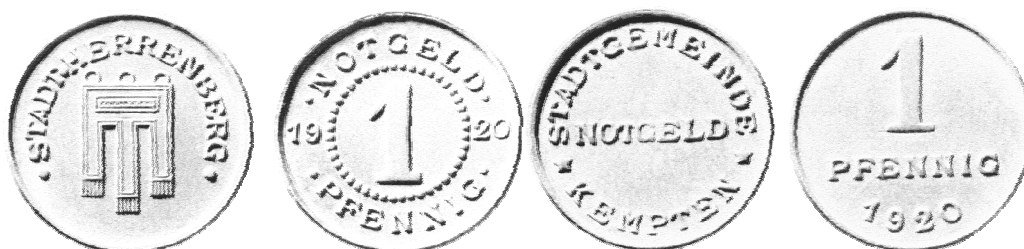


Rottweil  
Lamb 442.1



Tübingen  
Lamb 534.12

Figure 3



**Herrenberg, Lamb 200.4**

**Kempten, Lamb 233.3**

**Figure 4**

**Approximately same size coins in Figure 3 (15mm)**

The fact that these two towns, which are located so close to the other ten, chose not to use the same motif is almost as astonishing as the fact that the other ten did. Kempten had an excuse in that it is not in Württemberg and, therefore, would not want to use the antler theme. Herrenberg, on the other hand, is right in the center of the action. Why did it not get in step?

This is the story that needs to be told. Why did ten towns all choose the same plain design at a time when others were striving for distinctive and attractive designs? Only one of these towns (Aalen 1918) had ever before issued either one or two-pfennig Notgeld. Two of the ten, Cannstatt and Rottweil, issued no Notgeld other than a one-pfennig in this series. Why after two or three years of doing without one and two-pfennig coins did they all have them struck in 1920, when the need for them is certainly not clear?

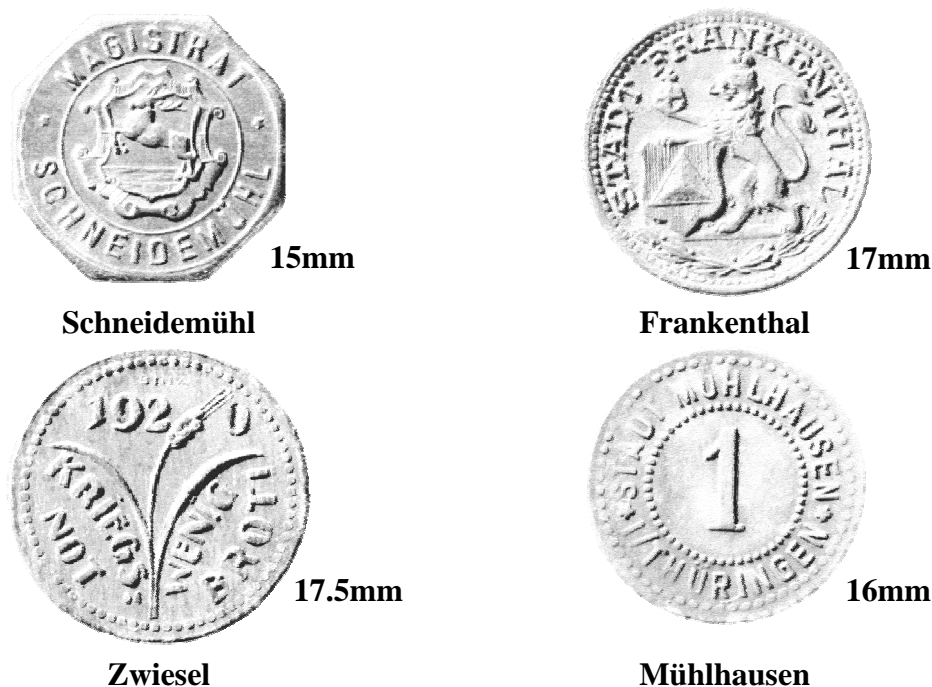
The only explanation I have been able to come up with is that some imaginative soul figured out the collectors are always striving to get that "whole set." Minting a set of similar coins from different towns could create a demand for the "whole set," thereby enhancing sales of all the town's coins. Then why did Herrenberg get out of step? What do you think?

Another possible answer may lie in the location of mints in Württemberg. Stuttgart, the capital city of Württemberg, was one of five federal mints operating during this period. It is improbable that this "local" mint would have been involved in producing Notgeld with a Württemberg motif because at this time the Stuttgart mint was producing prodigious numbers of iron five-pfennig coins for the national government. If the government had recognized the need for one-pfennig coins and had production capacity available, it is likely the production would have been national coins not Notgeld.

But there were several other mints located in Württemberg or had been there in the past. Two such mints listed in *Standard Catalog of World Coins 19th Century 1801-1900* were in Tübingen and Freudenstadt, both of them in the family of the ten towns involved in this saga. One wonders if some of the machinery and know-how of these other mints was put to use by the locals to add these coins to the world of collectibles.

Of course, if it didn't make sense for anyone to create one-pfennig coins in 1920, then we have to explain why some other towns did: Eldagsen, in Hanover (iron, different design), Frankenthal in Pfalz (zinc, different design), Mühlhausen in Saxony (zinc, different design), Schneidemühl in Posen (iron, different design), and Zwiesel in

eastern Bavaria near Czechoslovakia (zinc, different design). Four of the five are pictured in Figure 5.



**Figure 5**  
**1-Pfennig Coins of Differing Designs**

Well, what do you think? If I were a part of the World Wide Web I would start a blog, but I have yet to connect my computer to the outside world, so you'll have to write to the NI bulletin and fill me in on some answers.

Personal note: The thrust of my collecting efforts is not in the Notgeld area although I was interested enough in the genre in 1970 to gather a few of the coins and join the Emergency Money Society. In fact, I became a member of NI when the membership of that organization was merged with NI. When I began this piece I had coins from only two of the ten towns discussed herein. In answer to my notice posted in the September, 2005 issue of the bulletin I have added a number of others. They came from members John & Barbara Stribhei and David E. Seelye. My thanks to them for making the photo coverage in the story more complete.

Marks per Dollar (at end of year) <sup>2</sup>						
1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
5.0	5.5	6.4	7	42	70	185

**Table 1**

Table 2 shown below gives the mint production figures for all mints in Germany of the four smallest denomination coins. The total for each year was used to create Chart 1. The source of this data is the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* published by Krause.

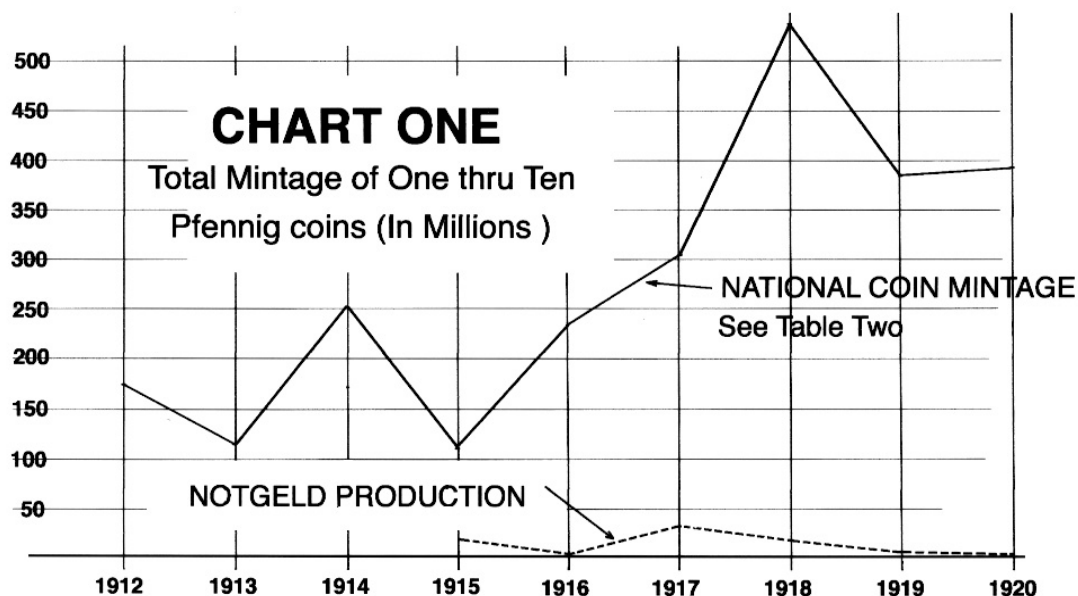
<sup>2</sup> *Journal of Emergency Money*, Volume IV, Number I, (Mills & Park)

Mint Production (millions)									
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
1 Pfennig	77.0	54.4	24.5	25.7	14.9	50.4	0.3		
2 Pfennig	23.9	10.7	8.1	6.5	6.5				
5 Pfennig	35.0	26.9	73.3	59.4	99.2	147.3	333.8	236.7	168.8
10 Pfennig	39.9	23.0	65.7	18.5	117.1	106.4	202.0	147.8	223.0
Total	175.9	115.1	171.7	110.1	234.6	304.1	536.1	384.5	391.9
Table 2									

Notgeld Designs by Town <sup>3</sup>							
Pfennig	undated	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
1	21		120	20	3	16	
2	7	1	5	11	1	12	
5	140	2	238	120	45	28	4
10	197	6	313	206	88	65	24
Total	365	9	566	357	137	121	28
Table 3							

Undated Notgeld cannot be attributed to any year but by consensus are considered to predate the dated Notgeld of the same town. The chances are that most undated coins were really produced late in 1915 and in 1916. Undated coins are included with 1915 in Chart 1.

Estimating production of each type at an average of 50,000 brings the total number of coins per year (shown in millions): undated (18.25), 1916 (0.45), 1917 (28.3), 1918 (17.85), 1919 (6.85), 1920 (6.05) and 1921 (1.4).

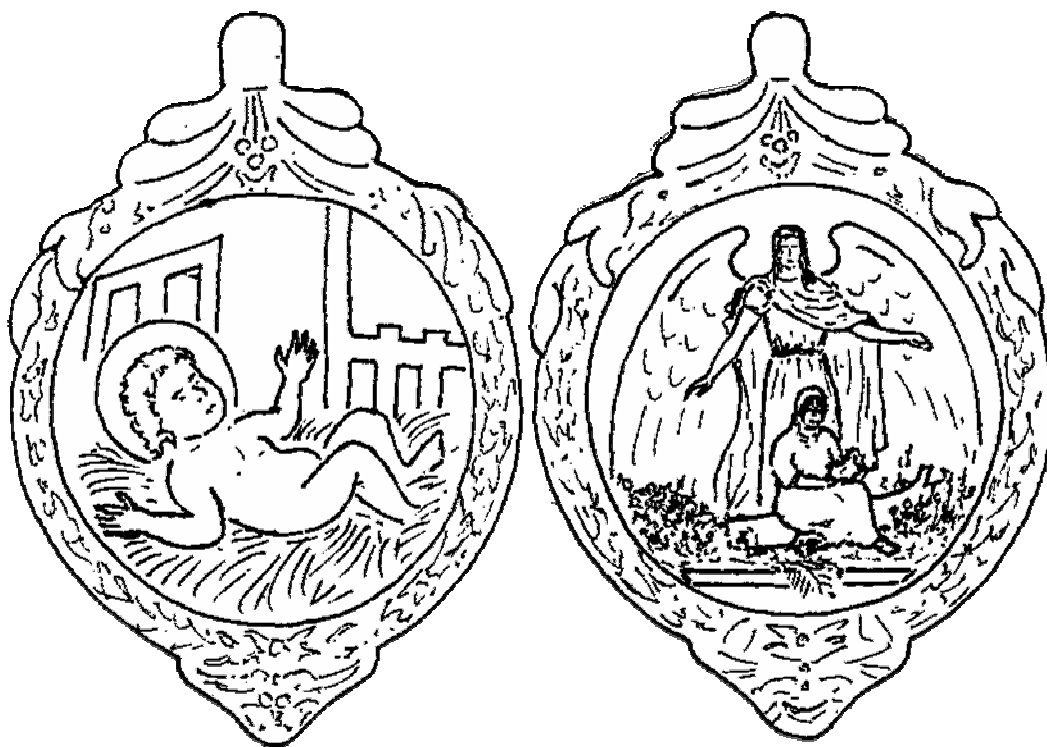


Note: Images are not actual size.

*NI*

<sup>3</sup> This information was compiled from my copy of Lamb's *Catalogue of German War Tokens - The Municipal Issues 1914-1923*. 1966. It includes coins from 611 municipalities. I am sure more recent volumes have added a number of places and issues unknown to Lamb in 1966, but the overall picture probably hasn't changed much.

**Cradle Medals**  
**Bob Forrest, NI #2382**



**Figure 1**  
(Actual size, 97mm high)

The purpose of the huge Spanish white-metal medal shown in Figure 1 is not difficult to guess when you consider its obverse and reverse designs. The obverse shows an infant in a straw-filled crib, actually the haloed Infant Jesus as "el Niño de las Pajitas" (the Child of the Straw), an image usually associated with the Christmas story and the Nativity at Bethlehem.<sup>4</sup> The reverse of the medal shows a rather impressive Guardian Angel spreading its wings protectively over a child sitting on a log. Given the size of this medal—too large to be comfortably worn on the person—and the infant/child-related themes of its obverse and reverse, it hardly comes as a surprise to learn that it is "una medalla de cuna" (a cradle medal), that is, a medal designed to be hung from the head of a cradle to afford amuletic protection to its young occupant.

It is difficult to estimate the age of this medal, but I would guess that it dates from sometime in the first half of the 20th century. A rather more recent (latter 20th century?) Spanish cradle medal is shown in Figure 2. This is a uniface white metal production with an inset enameled badge depicting St. Peter of Alcántara.<sup>5</sup> St. Peter

---

<sup>4</sup> Compare the Portuguese medal depicted as Fig. 2 in "Two Medals for Christmas" in *NI Bulletin*, December 1998, p. 322.

<sup>5</sup> There is a lengthy article on him in H. Thurston & D. Attwater's edition of *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (1956), vol. 4, pp. 144-8. For his symbolic/iconographic attributes, see Juan Ferrando Roig, *Iconografía de los Santos* (1950), p. 221. A useful source of information is the web-site of Arenas de San Pedro at: [www.ayto-arenas.com](http://www.ayto-arenas.com).

was a 16th century Franciscan mystic who was born in Alcántara, a town in north-west Extremadura, close to the Portuguese border. He is shown holding an open book in his left hand and a quill pen in his right, these being indicative of his learning. The bird shown hovering to his right is a dove, symbolizing divine inspiration.<sup>1</sup> The legend reads "S. Pedro de Alcántara / Arenas de S. Pedro," which effectively tells us that the cradle medal is from Arenas de San Pedro, about 35 miles south-west of Avila, the town where St. Peter of Alcántara died in 1562, and where he is buried in the Sanctuary named after him. He is regarded as the special patron of the town, and each year, on his feast day of October 19th, a fiesta is held in his honor, with a grand procession to his shrine. Clearly the sleeping child on the cradle medal, and the child in the cradle from which the medal is designed to be hung, are both being put, quite literally, under the special protection of this saint.



**Figure 2**  
(Actual size approximately 100mm)

*NI*

<sup>1</sup> Compare the medal of Pope St. Gregory the Great depicted as Fig. 9 in "The Dove: from Noah's Ark to the Baptism of Christ" in *NI Bulletin*, November 2001, p. 313.

# Census of the Santa Fe Half-Real, FS Herman Blanton, NI #LM15



Figure 1

The study of cob type coins is both challenging and rewarding, offering opportunities for new discoveries and observations. Coinage from the mint of Santa Fe (Colombia) offers many such opportunities. In this article I confirm observations made by X & F Calicó in 1966, more than 40 years ago, and illustrate all pieces known to me. In his landmark study of Santa Fe coins *Aportación a la Historia Monetaria de Santa Fe de Bogotá (Colombia)* published in 1953, F. Xavier Calicó persuasively argued that the mintmarks SF, FS were for the Colombian mint of Santa Fe, with these mint marks beginning no earlier than 1717 when a separate viceroyalty of New Granada was created. At the time of publication there were only two silver coins known with these mint marks (Calicó p. 34), 1722 dated eight real and two real (which to me looks more like a 4 real). Calicó was also aware of the eight real F-M in Herrera's *El Duro*.

In 1966 the first half-real with FS marks made its appearance in an auction of the Spanish Numismatic Society (ANE); the sale catalog was edited by X. & F. Calicó. In Figure 2 we show the image from the catalog and beneath it the translated catalog description.



Figure 2  
13×15 mm, 1.30 grams

Calicó, X. & F. editor, *Asociación Numismática Española* 7, 8, 9 y 15 de Octubre de 1966. Barcelona. Lot 471. **COLOMBIA, SANTA FE DE BOGOTA.** Half-real, with neither date nor assayer (around 1726). The mint mark expressed with initials F-S. *Obv.* PHILIPVS monogram between •F••S• surmounted by a cross. *Rev.* Cross quartered by castles and lions; the horizontal piece of the cross between F-(S); beneath, .X. The discovery of this coin is very important for the study of Santa Fe de Bogotá coinage following the creation of the Viceroyalty in 1717. See Calicó page 65. Weight 1.30 grams. ONLY KNOWN SPECIMEN. UNPUBLISHED. Enlargement, silver, plate XXI.



The date estimation of around 1726 proved prescient, as 36 years later, in 2002, the first dated specimen surfaced. See below.

A second coin came to market in 2002, Hervera, 12 March 2002 lot 509, and it made two subsequent appearances: Aureo, 9 April 2003 lot 1464; and Aureo, 19 December 2006 lot 312.



**Figure 3**  
**Santa Fe half-real 1726**  
**13.5×11mm, 1.829 grams**

A die study comparing the Aureo half real with a 1725 dated gold two escudos of Luis I shows the same punches for castles and lions were used, further confirming the attribution to Santa Fe. Compare the castle windows, door and even slanted line passing through it. Compare the head of the lion. The two escudo coin was offered in Cayón Subastas' auction 30 November 2004 as lot 4061.



**Figure 4**  
**Santa Fe, Luis I, 2 Escudos 1725 FS (Enlarged approximately 3×)**



A third specimen is in a private collection in Bogotá.



**Figure 5**  
Approximate diameter 14 mm

The third specimen illustrated in Figure 5 has different punches for the castles and lions. These punches are quite distinctive and should be identifiable with a 2 escudo piece should one be encountered. This specimen shows a partial date of x72x.

Conclusion: Calicó correctly identified and attributed the F-S half real to Santa Fe de Bogotá (Colombia). The current known population is three specimens, two with correct position of castle/ lion and one reversed with lion/ castle.

---

*NI*

---

**Coin Quiz**  
**Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134**

Here are some questions about Mexico and Central America:

1. What was unusual about the Mexican 10, 20, and 50 New Pesos (KM553, 561, 571) of 1993-1995?
2. What countries comprised the Central American Republic?
3. What is the only English-speaking country in Central America?
4. There are three varieties of the very common KM479 1968 Mexico City Olympics (at least Type I is common). What are the differences between them?

**Answers**

1. They were circulating bi-metallic silver coins, with a bronze-aluminum ring and sterling core. The 20 and 50 NP coins were discontinued in 1996. 2. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica. 3. Belize. 4. Type I-3 top rings in a line; Type II- Center ring is lower than the other two in the top row; Type III-Rings as Type II but snake's tongue is long and curved.

*NI*

## Harald Bluetooth CNG



**Denmark. Harold Bluetooth. Circa 940-985. AR Half Bracteate (0.50g)**  
(Image enlarged)

Imitation of a Charlemagne denier of the Dorestad mint. CARO/LVS in two lines / DOR/STAT in two lines. Both legends degenerate. G. Galster, "Vikingetids møntfund fra Bornholm," *NNÅ* (1977/8), 21.2 and p. 171; Malmer KG 9c; Hauberg 1.

Harald Bluetooth was a powerful king who united Denmark under his control, the first time a sovereign king emerged in Scandinavia. The previous chieftains had controlled smaller *jarldoms* (Old Norse for earldoms) and fought with each other. Around 960, Harald converted to Christianity, at the bidding of his wife. He had his parents, King Gorm and Queen Thyre (or Thyra) exhumed and reburied as Christians. His dramatic rune stone bears an image of Christ crucified and entangled with serpents. Harald initiated a great many building projects, and the huge earthen Danvirke on the southern border is attributed to him. This kept out the attacks of the young German Empire that Harald fended off twice.

Trade connections with the Franks inspired the Norsemen to begin an independent coinage. One of the more important trade routes led through the Frisian town of Dorestad, which was in Carolingian territory, but during certain periods was enfeoffed to the Viking chiefs. The Franks had established a mint in that city, and the silver deniers produced there served as the prototype for the first Scandinavian coinage.

Editor's note: According to ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald\\_I\\_of\\_Denmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald_I_of_Denmark)) the Runic text on Harald's Jelling stone translates as:

Harald, king, bade these memorials to be made after Gorm, his father, and Thyra, his mother. The Harald who won the whole of Denmark and Norway and turned the Danes to Christianity

*NI*

## Letters to the Editor

**Francis Bessenyei writes:** What an excellent issue NI Bulletin Vol. 42 No. 9. So many interesting articles: about King Philip II, Canossa, Saint-Martin, etc. I could hardly put it down. Congratulations and thanks.

**Gerhard Schön writes:** Regarding the article in the NI Bulletin, October 2007, pp. 215-218 ("*The Mystery of the Missing Number*" by Bill Mullan), here is the correct information.

The GDR 5 Mark coin with the Brandenburger Tor in Berlin was struck with year dates 1971 and 1979 to 1982 (S #31.1), and subsequently with slightly modified design (S #31.2) with year dates from 1982 to 1990.

The 1987 date was actually produced in the following quantities: 287,810 pieces for general circulation, plus 48,500 in BU issued as singles and in one of the three different thematic sets on the 750th Anniversary of Berlin. Plus 8,000 in the annual BU set, 3,000 in the S#31 BU type set, 4,079 issued as singles in Cameo Proof finish, 2,345 in the annual Cameo Proof set, about 5 piece produced with an experimental Unfrosted Mirror Proof finish (not to be confused with the BU version).

To commemorate the 750th Anniversary of Berlin, three additional 5 Mark coins dated 1987 were issued (S #113 Nikolaiviertel, S #114 Rotes Rathaus, S #115 Alexanderplatz Universal Time Clock). For each one of the four 1987 dated 5 Mark coin types with Berlin theme, a different obverse die with the state emblem was used. No mules have been produced. The picture on page 215 of the NI Bulletin is nothing but a mismatch of the illustration of an obverse of S #115 (Universal Time Clock) and a reverse of S #31.1 (Brandenburger Tor in the 1971 and 1979 to 1982 version). A coin combining these two dies as illustrated simply does not exist.

The "S" reference numbers and the other details are taken from the current (37th) edition of the *Kleiner deutscher Münzkatalog* by Günter Schön.

**Bill Mullan responds:** Gerhard Schön's letter, I think, agrees with the point I was making about GDR coin KM #117 (see October 2007 *NI Bulletin*). Apparently he found enough difference between the initial die for KM #29 (his S #31.1) and the subsequent issue of essentially the same coin (S #31.2) to give it a different designations. It is a different coin, and keeping the KM #117 designation would have been closer to the facts than making it just another date of KM #29.

In regard to the picture in the article (p. 215), I cannot accept responsibility for any possible distortion of the picture as printed in KM. But Figure 4 on the bottom of page 217 is as close to a faithful comparison of the picture of KM #117 (as printed) and the Universal Time Clock KM #116 as I can make it. KM #116 comes closer to matching KM #117 than any other coin but it does not seem to be the coin used to illustrate the obverse of KM #117, if indeed the wrong coin was used for that purpose.

I am sure Gerhard has a greater selection of coins and may be able to find a perfect match. After all, there may be several varieties of the obverse dies used to strike the Brandenburg Gate coins of 1987.

*NI*

## Book News and Reviews

***Central American Provisional and Provincial Mints, A Research on the Mints Operative in Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica between 1822-1825. Volume 1: History and Coin Attributions.* By Carlos Jara M. Written in English, paper cover, 194 pp. index and bibliography, ISBN: 978-956-310-760-9. This is a first edition with a print run of 300. Orders should be sent to Alan Luedeking, 1425 N.W. 88th Avenue, Doral, FL 33172, USA. Price US\$75.00; within USA add \$5 shipping (outside contact Alan for shipping cost).**

In the first part of the book, 135 pages, Jara begins with a short survey of previously published coins whose attributions were erroneous. Succeeding chapters cover the mints at León (Nicaragua), Granada (Nicaragua), El Viejo (Nicaragua), Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and Comayagua (Honduras). These mint issues are documented with original source material in the original Spanish and translated into English. Jara also includes images of original drawings related to the coins. Including the source documents in the original language is very important for researchers.

In the second part of his book the author has a thirteen-page chapter "Central American Provisional Issues of 1822-1825: A Global Picture." Here Jara discusses the reasons for issuing provisional coins: lack of circulating money plus other economic and/or political considerations. He has several illustrations of imitation cob type coins.

The final part of the work is a section consisting of five appendices:

1. A Detailed Refutation of the (Mis)attributions of the Iturbide Bust Provisional 2 Reales (KM #3) to the Mint of Comayagua and Other Erroneous Attributions of the Past.
2. Original Documentation Related to the Establishment of Formal Branch Federation mints in Tegucigalpa and Costa Rica in 1824. (Spanish).
3. Original Documentation Related to the Various Projects of Issuing Copper Debased Coinage in 1822-28. (Spanish).
4. Decree Issued in May 6, 1824 in Guatemala Relating to Counterfeit Coinage Being Issued in Tegucigalpa and Guatemala. (Spanish).
5. Documentation Relating to the Striking of the Quetzaltenango 1822 Iturbide Proclamation Medal at the Guatemala Mint.

The author plans a second volume, to be an illustrated catalog of the coins including varieties.

I invite interested persons to read the work and submit their own book review. The author has generously donated a copy to the NI library.

Herman Blanton

*NI*